



HM Treasury, 1 Horse Guards Road, London, SW1A 2HQ

6 October 2017

Dr Adam Marshall
Director General
British Chambers of Commerce
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Delivering certainty for EU citizens in the UK

Thank you for your letter setting out your concerns about the position of EU citizens in the UK. I fully agree with you that EU citizens are incredibly valued members of our communities. They have made, and continue to make, significant contributions to the economic, cultural and social life of the UK.

Our aim has always been to provide as much certainty as possible to EU citizens currently in the UK, as well as UK nationals in the EU. We want their lives to continue broadly as now and we have put citizens first in our exit negotiations with the EU. The UK remains determined to reach an early agreement that provides reassurance for both EU citizens already in the UK and UK nationals in the EU.


On your specific questions, the UK government set out its objectives ahead of negotiations at the end of June. The specific details remain subject to negotiation with our European partners as part of delivering a reciprocal agreement.

The government's paper set out that any EU citizen in the UK at a specified date with five years' continuous residence will be able to apply for UK settled status. Other EU citizens who arrive before the specified date will be able to stay until they have the five years' residence to apply for UK settled status. There will be a grace period after we leave to enable people to do this. Those EU citizens who arrived after the specified date will be allowed to remain in the UK during the grace period and may become eligible to settle permanently.

On the specified date, we are clear that it shouldn't be earlier than the date we triggered Article 50 (29 March 2017), and no later than the date we leave the EU. To specify a date now, and then risk this changing through the course of negotiations, would lead to further uncertainty for both EU citizens and UK nationals. But, for the avoidance of any doubt, anyone who arrived in the UK before the date we triggered Article 50 will be covered by the UK's proposed approach.

Obtaining settled status will mean that those EU nationals who qualify will have no immigration conditions placed on their residence in the UK, provided they remain resident here. They will be able to work or study here freely, live permanently in the UK with a partner who has settled or is a UK national, and have access to benefits and public services in line with UK nationals.

I hope this provides you with the necessary clarification of our position and I look forward to continued engagement between my department and the BCC.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Philip Hammond', with a stylized flourish at the end.

PHILIP HAMMOND